

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

General Session of the Commission, Canberra, 15–19 October 1988

Present: Dr W. D. L. Ride (President) in the Chair: Commissioners Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Holthuis, Kraus, Lehtinen, Melville and Thompson. Dr K. H. L. Key was present, by invitation, for part of the meeting. Dr Tubbs (Executive Secretary), Miss Cooper, Mrs Gentry and Mr Smith from the Secretariat also present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Commissioners Alvarado, Bayer, Bernardi, Cocks, Gruchy, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Kabata, Mroczkowski, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Uéno and Willink.

2. The minutes of the previous General Session of the Commission (Budapest, September 1985) had been published in BZN 42: 313–323.

Business arising from the Minutes: The Commission considered alternative drafts prepared to implement its decision to amend the Bylaws to provide for electing members of the Commission from a single list. The Commission adopted the following new Bylaw 3:

'Bylaw 3. Slate of Nominees, Voting and Determining the Result

(a) The Commission shall present a slate of nominees to the Section of Zoological Nomenclature. In preparing the slate, the Commission shall receive all names submitted under the provisions of Bylaw 2 and shall consider for the slate all those qualified to meet the conditions of Articles 2(b) and (c) of the Constitution and Bylaw 1. At that time the Commission may consider additional nominees of its own choice. Retiring members of the Commission who are proposed for re-election (subject to Article 3(b) of the Constitution) shall be indicated on the slate. The Commission may explicitly recommend any nominee whom it considers particularly well qualified, but such recommendation is not binding on the Section of Zoological Nomenclature.

(b) In the event that there are insufficient nominees who the Commission is prepared to nominate, the Commission may propose that a vacancy remain unfilled and dealt with as though it were a casual vacancy.

(c) The Commission shall endeavour to nominate, wherever possible, two candidates for each vacancy. The slate shall not contain more than twice the number of names required to fill the vacancies.

(d) The election shall be conducted by the Officers and Council present at the meeting of the Section of Zoological Nomenclature provided that no person who is a candidate for the election shall conduct the election. In the event that no Officer or member of the Council is present and eligible the members of the Commission present shall appoint some from their number to conduct the election.

(e) Voting on the slate shall be by secret ballot of members of the Section of Zoological Nomenclature present in person.

(f) The ballot of each member voting shall consist of a ballot paper containing the names of the persons on the slate and no others.

(g) Each member voting may indicate his or her preference for as many candidates as are required to fill the vacancies by placing a cross against their names. A completed ballot paper containing more crosses than there are vacancies shall be void and not counted.

(h) The result of the ballot shall be ascertained by counting the votes given to each candidate and the candidate or candidates to whom more votes have been given than to the other candidates, up to the number of members of the Commission to be elected, shall be declared to have been elected.

(i) If an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected, the President, or in the absence of the President the Vice-President or the person appointed in accordance with Bylaw 18 to preside over the meeting of the Commission at which the slate was prepared, shall determine which of them is deemed to be elected, giving consideration to the need to secure a balanced representation in the composition of the Commission in accordance with Article 2(c) of the Constitution.'

3. The Agenda was adopted as circulated.

4. The Executive Secretary's report to IUBS had been circulated and was endorsed by the Commission.

5. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature: Progress Report on Sales*

Dr Tubbs reported that more than 6,000 copies of the 3rd Edition of the Code (published February 1985) had been sold but an adequate number remained in stock to avoid the need for an early reprinting. Members thought that a breakdown of sales by countries would indicate the importance attached to zoological nomenclature in those countries and would help in pin-pointing funding sources. The Secretariat was asked to circulate such information as the sales agents could provide. The importance of the Code to editors of zoological journals was stressed.

6. *Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology*

Dr Tubbs reported that a revised and updated edition of the Official Lists and Indexes had been published in June 1987, bringing together in one volume all the names and works on which the Commission had ruled since it was set up. About 360 copies had already been sold, more than recovering the direct costs of publication. It was planned to issue a supplement listing all the names added up to December 1988.

7. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*

The new format and cover design of the BZN introduced in 1987 were welcomed by members. It was RESOLVED that the appreciation of the Commission of the work of those responsible be recorded formally. While agreeing that the present style of Applications should be retained, it was suggested that, in due course, straight-forward cases unlikely to generate comment might be dealt with more expeditiously and at less cost by publishing these in abstract accompanied by the formal proposals; photocopies of the full applications would be sent to members of specialist committees and any zoologists requesting them. It was RESOLVED to remit this suggestion to the Council, to report to the Commission in 1991. General articles should continue to be published

subject, as at present, to careful refereeing. It was important that the list of Commissioners given in each part of BZN should show their specialist field and nationality. A poster publicising the Bulletin as the official periodical of the Commission was displayed; copies would be sent to Commissioners for display at specialist meetings they were attending.

8. *Specialist Nomenclature Committees*

The Mammalian Nomenclature Committee (convener: Dr S. B. George) had been very useful in providing comments on cases referred to it. The Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) of the International Ornithological Congress was available to assist the Commission. The Committee (Chairman: Professor W. J. Bock) was at present formulating proposals for the stabilisation of avian family-group names. It was RESOLVED that the Secretariat would pursue the intention to establish nomenclature committees where none existed.

9. *Use versus Priority in Zoological Nomenclature*

A general article (BZN 44: 79–85) proposing that the names adopted in authoritative works, selected on the recommendation of specialists, might be protected by the Commission from the application of the Principle of Priority was discussed. It was agreed that the proposal should be considered in the revision of the Code in the context of a re-examination of Articles 23(b) and 79(a) and (b).

10. *Financial Position*

Since the last meeting of the Commission, financial support had been received from Denmark, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, U.K. and U.S.A. It was inevitable that income from sales of the Code and of the Official Lists and Indexes would drop, and on present trends the annual deficit by 1991 was likely to be between £10,000 and £20,000. There was an urgent need to widen the funding-base and to generate additional funds to enable the Commission's activities to be maintained, let alone expanded. The Commission set up an ad-hoc Working Party (Commissioners Cogger (Chairman), Kraus, Lehtinen and Thompson) to consider the issue. The main conclusions of the Working Party were that the most likely sources of additional funds were learned societies and relevant industry (pesticide, agricultural, medical, etc.). An endowment fund with at least £500,000 to generate income from interest would be highly desirable, providing it did not entail unacceptable restrictions on the use of funds. Individual members of the Commission were best placed to initiate fund-raising in their own countries and those present agreed to do so. The Secretariat was asked to prepare a series of letters or brochures geared to individual sectors of industry, giving examples of the importance of the Commission's work. The President reported that there was a possibility that IUBS might be willing to generate a contribution to an endowment fund from its member bodies.

11. *Election of Commissioners*

(i) *Procedure for Elections.* Five vacancies in Commission membership had been announced, arising from the completion of tenure by Commissioners Alvarado, Bernardi, Dupuis and Holthuis and the death of Commissioner Zheng. Twenty-one nominations had been received including the four retiring members, who had

been ruled by the Council as eligible for re-election. In accordance with Article 4(d) of the Constitution, the Commission selected 10 of the nominees to present to the Section of Zoological Nomenclature. Five of the 10 nominees were recommended by the Commission for election to secure the best balance of nationality and zoological field in Commission membership, as laid down in Article 2 of the Constitution. In accordance with Article 3(b) of the Statutes of the Section of Zoological Nomenclature, it was RESOLVED to admit to the Section in Session at the XXIII General Assembly of IUBS all zoologists who had formally enrolled as participants in the pre-General Assembly Biotaxonomy Workshop. In accordance with Article 3 of the Statutes of the Section they, together with members of the Commission and zoologists at the General Assembly being members of national or other delegations, Sections or Commissions of the Union, constituted the membership of the Section eligible to vote in the election.

(ii) *Election by the Section of Zoological Nomenclature.* Voting by secret ballot was undertaken by the Section of Zoological Nomenclature. The ballot was open throughout the afternoon of 17 October and the morning of 18 October. In accordance with Bylaw 3d, Dr Ride and Professor Corliss conducted the election. Forty-three members of the Section voted. The following five zoologists were elected to the Commission:

BOCK, Prof W. J.	U.S.A.	Ornithology
DUPUIS, Prof C.	France	Heteroptera
HOLTHUIS, Prof L. B.	Netherlands	Crustacea
MARTINS DE SOUZA, Prof U. R.	Brazil	Coleoptera
NIELSEN, Dr C.	Denmark	Bryozoa, Mollusca, Coelenterata

(iii) *Casual Vacancies.* The Commission had decided by a postal vote conducted prior to the General Assembly to increase its number to 29. The decision had been taken under Article 2(a) of the Constitution and Bylaw 7. In accordance with its powers under Bylaw 8, the Commission RESOLVED to fill the 3 vacancies so created as though they were casual vacancies. These vacancies, together with the vacancy created by the impending retirement of Mr Melville on reaching the age limit, would be announced in the December 1988 part of BZN and nominations would be invited. All nominations received by 28 February 1989, including those nominations that had been rejected in the election that had taken place at the XXIII General Assembly of IUBS, would be eligible for consideration. Voting would commence on 1 March 1989 under the 3-month procedure.

12. Section of Zoological Nomenclature

Meetings of the Section of Zoological Nomenclature took place on three days between 14 and 18 October 1988, chaired by the President or, in his absence, Dr Cogger. The main tasks of the Section were to elect members to the Commission, to initiate consideration of amendments to the Code, and to consider resolutions forwarded by the IUBS pre-Assembly Biotaxonomy Workshop. [The Minutes of the meeting of the Section of Zoology are published in BZN 46: 14-18.]

13. *IUBS pre-Assembly Biotaxonomy Workshop*

A Workshop entitled 'Whose Name? What Specimen?', organised by the Australian Biological Resources Study, had been held in Canberra on 12–14 October 1988, attended by 85 botanists and zoologists, including most of the Commissioners present in Canberra. The objective of the Workshop was to provide a forum for learning and exchanging ideas about some major proposals to change the formal ways in which taxonomists are obliged, under the International Codes of Nomenclature, to deal with biological names.

The Workshop passed five resolutions (see Appendix to this report) to be presented to the IUBS General Assembly. The Commission welcomed and supported the resolutions, recognising that setting up a register of zoological names implied a work load that would have to be met over a large number of years. The President and Executive Secretary had attended a meeting at Kew, London, in April 1988 that had made recommendations about registers of names (see BZN 45: 183–185), although it was concerned primarily with botany.

14. *New Edition of the Code*

The 3rd Edition of the Code had been published in February 1985 and already a large number of significant amendments had been received or had come to the attention of the Secretariat. Proposed amendments had been considered by a Scrutinising Committee which met in London in April 1988. The views and advice of the Section of Zoological Nomenclature would be sought at the General Assembly.

It was RESOLVED to work towards a new edition of the Code to be published in 1994 or as soon thereafter as possible. An Editorial Committee (Commissioners Thompson (Chairman), Cogger, Dupuis, Melville and *ex officio* the President) was set up to prepare the new edition. An announcement of the decision to prepare a new edition would be made in the Bulletin, and comments and amendments invited, to be submitted to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible. Proposals would be published and further comments sought. A first draft, taking account of proposals received by the end of 1989, would be prepared by the Editorial Committee for wide circulation, inviting comments. An opportunity for consideration would arise at meetings of the Commission and of the Section planned in conjunction with ICSEB at its meeting in Maryland in July 1990. The Commission and the Section would then consider the new edition in draft form at the 1991 IUBS Assembly. The Commission would then vote on substantive changes. The new edition incorporating the changes authorised by that vote would be presented to IUBS in 1994 for ratification. Publication would follow as soon as possible thereafter.

15. *Appointment of Officers and Councillors*

Dr Ride would complete six years as President on 13 July 1989. The office of Vice-President would become vacant at the close of the IUBS General Assembly, on the completion of Professor Alvarado's tenure as a member of the Commission. Both offices would be filled by the procedure laid down in the Bylaws. It was RESOLVED that for this purpose Commissioners Melville and Thompson would join with the Council to propose two candidates for the office of President. Voting under the 1-month procedure would start on 1 April 1989. The office of Vice-President would be filled by the same procedure either at the same time as, or subsequent to, the election of the

President. The Executive Secretary would conduct the administration of the election, writing in the first place to Council members and to Commissioners Melville and Thompson.

Commissioners Heppell and Holthuis would complete 6 years as Councillors on 12 May 1990, and, under Bylaw 10, these vacancies would be filled by an election beginning on 1 April 1990. It was noted that vacancies on the Council might arise as a consequence of the elections of a President and a Vice-President.

The appointments of the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary are the responsibility of the Council and end at the close of the IUBS General Assembly following appointment, both being open to renewal. In view of the President's impending retirement and the changes to the membership of the Council, it was **RESOLVED** to extend both appointments until after the election of the new President.

16. *Appreciation*

The Commission **RESOLVED** to record its very warm appreciation of the services of its two retiring members (Professor Alvarado and Dr Bernardi) to the Commission and to zoological nomenclature, and to thank members of the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, particularly its Chairman and Secretary, for their support of the Commission's work. The Commission wished to thank the Trustees and Director of the British Museum (Natural History) for providing the Secretariat with accommodation and services.

Appendix

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE IUBS WORKSHOP 'WHOSE NAME? WHAT SPECIMEN?' CANBERRA 12-14 OCTOBER 1988

1. The XXIII General Assembly of IUBS:

Recalling the conclusions and decisions of previous General Assemblies on the importance of a stable system of names of organisms based on a taxonomic understanding of their nature, both in fundamental research and applied fields;

Noting with approval the reports and conclusions of the IUBS Workshop 'Whose name? What specimen?';

Resolves that a research program on improvement of stability in Biological Nomenclature be included as a part of the Scientific Program of the Union;

Urges international organisations and other appropriate institutions to provide adequate support to efforts to improve the stability of names of organisms;

Requests the Commission on Botanical Nomenclature to appoint a Special Committee on Lists of Names in Current Use (cf. *Nature* **334**: 301, 1988);

Requests the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to study, in conjunction with appropriate agencies (such as the publisher of *Zoological Record*) the feasibility of indexing, on an international basis, scientific names in zoology.

2. The XXIII IUBS General Assembly:

Appreciating that today an increasing number of biologists are recognising protozoa, algae, and the 'lower' fungi as comprising an assemblage of lower eukaryotic organisms called protists and that traditionally a considerable number of these

organisms have been unsatisfactorily subject to simultaneous nomenclatural treatment under both botanical (I.C.B.N.) and zoological (I.C.Z.N.) codes;

Resolves that a multidisciplinary approach to such problems be continued;

Seeks to further harmonise the two codes to allow more equitable infraordinal nomenclatural treatment of the affected groups of protists.

3. The XXIII IUBS General Assembly:

Recognising the importance of taxonomy as a fundamental framework for all biological research;

Recognising that taxonomy also provides an essential framework for communication in agriculture, commerce, medicine, and other activity relating to biological products;

Resolves to work to convince governments around the world of the urgent need for increased resources to be made available for taxonomic education and taxonomic research in the light of rapidly increasing rates of extinction and the need for that research for the management and conservation of natural resources.

4. The XXIII IUBS General Assembly:

Resolves that its Commission for Biological Education, in consultation with the Section on Plant Taxonomy and the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature,

Develop an education programme to:

(a) explain the significance of taxonomy, especially in applied fields, and

(b) define for users of biological names, the reasons behind taxonomic name changes and how they arise from progress in taxonomy itself.

5. The XXIII IUBS General Assembly:

Encourages the development of lists of scientific names of taxonomic groups of plants and animals on a world and regional basis with such lists including all legitimate names validly and effectively published under the appropriate Code of nomenclature and including data on place and date of publication and typification and that such lists should be published appropriately and wherever possible be integrated with comprehensive accessible databases especially where those databases deal with natural (taxonomic) groups.